

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 4 pm
Bryan Park, Enrichment Center, 6275 Bryan Park Road

PRESENT MEMBERS: Matthew “Matt” Lojko, Jr. (Chair), Carl Brower, Jr., Christine “Chris” Cheek, Robert “Clay” Hassard, Decarlos Kinds, Tim Tsujii

ABSENT MEMBERS: Zachary Crutchfield, Thomas Daniels, Robert Enochs (Vice-Chair),

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Branson, Jenny Caviness, Michelle Gill-Moffat, Mary Holloman, Kathy Cates, Ednasha McCray, Edith McNeal, Willette Middleton, Kim Porter, Marcie Richardson, Wayne Simmons, Mike Simpson, Jasia Stevenson, Wade Walcutt, Chris Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Koll’s (Bryan Park Golf)

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held a Bryan Park, Enrichment Center. Matthew Lojko, Jr., Chair, called the meeting to order at 4 pm.

Kyle Koll’s, Bryan Park Golf, welcomed the Commission and all those present to Bryan Park. Koll’s introduced Jim Betts, Bryan Park Golf Commission Member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Commission Board Member

Lojko introduced newly appointed Commission Board Member, Tim Tsujii. Tsuji was appointed on March 5, 2013 by Councilperson Tony Wilkins who represents district 5.

Tsujii thanked Members for welcoming him to the Commission. Tsujii is an employee with the Guilford County Board of Elections and is involved with synerG an organization for young professionals ran by Action Greensboro, Inc. Tsujii became involved with Synergy for Young Professionals with hopes of establishing a sporting element of various recreational opportunities to young professionals new to Greensboro. Through collaboration with Greensboro Parks & Recreation this initiative came to fruition.

Citizen Board Member Forum

Wilson corrected the dates of the Citizen Board Member Forum that were announced during the previous Commission meeting. The correct dates are August 8-10.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 13, 2013 minutes were tabled for revisions.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brower and seconded to table the minutes of the March 13, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. A vote in favor was unanimous.

RECOGNITIONS

Volunteers

Kathy Cates, Greensboro Beautiful Coordinator, recognized Rebecca Richard, Greensboro Beautiful Volunteer who has been volunteering for 20 years and is very active with the Mobile Meals Circle of Caring Program. This program gives wreaths and bows to homebound seniors during the holiday season. Richard makes over 330 red bows for the wreaths. She is also the curator of the Wildlife Trail located at the Bicentennial Garden. Richard also serves as Chair on the Greensboro Beautiful Hospitality Committee.

Willette Middleton, Craft Recreation Center Director, recognized Kimberly Johnson, volunteer at Craft Recreation Center. Johnson has been volunteering with the basketball program at this facility since 1995 as a youth basketball coach.

Recreation Community Center Staff

Wade Walcutt, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, recognized Kim Porter for her promotion as Community Recreation Center Superintendent. Porter will oversee 10 recreation centers and working with the Facility Coordinators.

Walcutt also recognized Willette Middleton, new Craft Recreation Center Director and Brandon Free, new Lindley Recreation Center Director.

Walcutt announced other new employees who were not able to be present; Cory Povar, new Lewis Recreation Center Director, Shannon Teamer, new Brown Recreation Center Director, and Jessica Rosenblum, new Mainstream Resources Assistant Coordinator.

Greensboro United Soccer Association

Wilson introduced Pete Polonsky and Chad Heinicke, Greensboro United Soccer Association (GUSA), who partners with Parks & Recreation to provide soccer programs to area residents.

Polonsky informed the Commission that GUSA (formerly Greensboro Youth Soccer Association (GYSA)) has been around for over 35 years. There are currently more than 3,300 youth participants from age 3-18 and an adult component with approximately 700 players. The youth portion of this organization is the second largest soccer organization in North Carolina. This organization was one of seventy soccer organizations that were invited to play in the most select level with high level soccer players. This organization is very fortunate to have a partnership with Greensboro Parks and Recreation, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Bryan Park is known for one of the best soccer facilities in the country. Polonsky invited Members to explore the soccer facility. The CVB announced that a tournament that was held at Bryan Park 2 years ago had an economic impact to Greensboro of \$2.5 million. GYSA's goal is to continue to increase participant numbers therefore increasing the economic impact. Polonsky invited Members to visit the GUSA office building/restroom facility located on site that has recently been renovated for improvements. This was made possible through partnerships with the City and the Bryan Foundation.

STAFF REPORT

Youth Programming Update

Greensboro Youth Council (GYC)

Jasia Stevenson, GYC Director, reported that Camille's Closet was held on April 2. Camille's Closet is a program conducted by GYC that accepts new and gently used prom dresses and accessories to give to girls for free for their prom. This program serviced over 60 girls this year. There were 8 new volunteers this year. Margie Motsinger, community partner with the Cheshire Center, donated \$1,000 to assist with marketing efforts and to purchase plus size dresses to ensure all girls have the opportunity to have a dress. Payless Shoes and Ross donated 26 shoes. Although not in attendance, Stevenson recognized Tiffany Jones, GYC Assistant Coordinator, for her efforts of working with a hair design school who donated gift certificates for girls to get their hair styled.

Stevenson invited Members to the GYC Carnival on May 7-12.

Youth Initiatives

Michelle Gill-Moffat, Youth Initiatives Coordinator, distributed the upcoming Summer Night Lights event calendar. This event is possible through community collaboration with Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Libraries, and community agencies and businesses to provide structured programming for teens from 6 pm – 11 pm during the summer. The number one goal is to reduce juvenile crime during the time the program is offered and expose teens to new activities Greensboro has to offer and to provide opportunities to a diverse group of teens. This program will unveil to public in May.

Gill-Moffat informed Members of a new program being offered this summer called Counselor in Training for teens 15 years or older. There is an application process and training will be provided and then will be placed at one of the recreation centers for at least 3 weeks. This will be a great opportunity for teens and recreation centers.

Project Update

Ednasha McCray, Planning and Project Development Division Manager, reported the following project updates:

- **Gateway Gardens:** The first phase was complete in 2011. Phase II is currently underway with construction taking place of the visitors center that will include office space, restrooms and an outdoor patio. This phase should be complete within the next 3-4 months. This project is made possible through the partnership with Greensboro Beautiful, Inc.
- **Griffin Park:** The first phase of this project includes a 15,000 sq foot recreation center with outdoor playground area. Approximately 40% of the project is complete and should be finished in September-October.
- **Neighborhood Park Master Plans:** The Parks and Recreation Commission approved 2 neighborhood park master plans during the previous Commission meeting and one for consideration of approval will be presented this evening. These 3 parks received funding from a 2008 bond referendum. A portion of this funding was able to be used towards designing efforts. There are over 100 parks within the Parks and Recreation Department

and staff hopes to complete master plans with each one. Staff anticipates allocation of the second portion of funding for these projects as part of the upcoming budget.

- Ole' Asheboro Park: This park is located at the corner of Lee and Arlington Streets. Donated to the city by Music Garden by way of the Piedmont Land Conservancy. This is a one acre passive park that will have art pieces and a children's garden. Site grading and installation of decorative concrete walkways and stairways, and soil analysis are complete. This project has taken slightly longer than anticipated. Landscaping and seeding need to be done with additional installation of railing. This park is located on a busy thoroughfare; therefore staff is working with Duke Energy to determine what lighting should be installed. Staff hopes to have this project complete by the end of the month.
- Yanceyville Mountain Bike Parking Lot: This is a small trailhead parking lot. Staff will be working with Westcott Small and Associates to complete a grading plan and construction of a parking lot. This is located on Yanceyville Road near Lake Townsend. This project will provide designated parking for Blue Heron and King Fisher mountain bike trail users. Currently users are parking alongside the road which can present a safety concern. This request was made by the Fat Tire Mountain Bike Society who has been a long time supporter of the Parks and Recreation Department and trail system.
- Lewis Recreation Center / Jaycee Parking Lot: Staff is reviewing the possibility of adding 4 handicap accessible parking places, relocating the dumpster pad from out of the parking lot, and adding parking near the rear of the parking lot. Parks and Recreation is partnering with Water Resources in regards to stream restorations. The Jaycee parking lot and discussed working on creative management water quality projects and to improve storm water runoff. Staff hopes to begin this project in late fall; however will depend on the schedule and level of activities taking place at Lewis Recreation Center.
- Smith Senior Center: This project is from the 2008 bond referendum and is in the preliminary stages; however discussions are being had to improve the gravel parking lot, easier accessibility to the center, improve lighting at the front entrance, and restroom/locker area renovations.
- Gillespie Golf Course: This project is from the 2008 bond referendum and includes installing a restroom on the greens for patron usage.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Drainageway and Open Space Dedication

McCray presented a powerpoint demonstrating and aerial and visual of the Drainageway and Open Space property location (attached). Through the city's development process the city's ordinance requires a certain amount of acreage to be set aside as a drainageway and open space. Parks and Recreation has taken the lead to coordinate this process. The property being presented is a little over 8 acres and directly located adjacent to Price Park. There is a stream located on site. Historically, other city departments would be involved to research any environmental issues that the city needs to be aware of prior to taking ownership of the property. This property has

been evaluated and no reports alluded to any concerns and no reason for the city not to accept the deed. As part of this process the Commission either accepts or denies the property offer. If accepted, this is then forwarded to the city's property management division to take before City Council for final consideration of approval. There is an existing trail on the property, Price Park Greenway, which is a paved hiking and biking trail.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brower and seconded by Hassard for City Council to consider acceptance of the Drainageway and Open Space. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Steelman Park

McCray distributed an aerial of the Steelman Park (attached) location and the proposed conceptual site plan. This project is a part of the 2008 bond referendum package to renovate three neighborhood parks. Staff has worked with the community to get their input closely over the past year or so on how to improve the park, as over time the demographics and needs of the neighborhood have changed. The results of this plan reflect the feedback received from neighborhood participants at two community meetings, one of which had over 50 residents.

This park was named after Ruth A. Steelman in 1977 by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The park existed prior to this date but uncertain exactly when it was included into the park system. Historical documentation is limited on Ms. Steelman; however she was a principal at a local school, now home to the Grace Community Church and a principal at Caldwell. Existing features at the park is an active community garden, a playground, basketball court, shelters, picnic tables, decorative chess tables, outdoor patio areas, and 2 streams. Freeman Mill Road and Gregory Street are to the east of the park, Highland Avenue is to the west, and to the north is Haywood Street. There are multiple entrances to the park so to address some of the safety concerns; the consultant recommended minimizing or reducing entryways to a park. The plan also shows reducing some of the trail ways and bridge crossings and but also replacing the bridge crossings that will remain. The concrete walking path and associated bridge that runs along the community garden area will be removed; however there will still be access to other portions of the park. The community garden will remain the same, but it is recommended that maintenance increases. There is an existing playground with benches but not much shade; therefore the proposed plan recommends shade structures.

Lojko inquired if shade structures are located at other parks in Greensboro.

McCray replied that Greensboro parks do not have these type structures. These structures are recommended in other master plans and are also utilized by several other communities. Vandalism to these is not anticipated any more than the usual vandalism that takes place.

Brower asked what type of material the structures are made from.

McCray stated that there are multiple types of material to choose from, such as fabric, and the type for this plan has not yet been determined. This park formally had a restroom and was removed at the neighborhoods request a few years ago due to vandalism and other illicit activities. The plan recommends refurbishing the existing chess tables, as they are a unique amenity within the park and not found elsewhere in Greensboro parks. The plan also shows refurbishing the patio area to become a small outdoor stage. Fitness stations and benches would

be installed along the trail. It is recommended to remove the smaller existing concrete slabs. The existing basketball court is heavily used by the community and will remain and a small fence installed to keep the ball from rolling into the stream. The existing multi-purpose court will also remain. Installation of bike racks is proposed as well as additional signage. The community feedback reported that the park is not well known or seen within the community by new residents, with some not even knowing it existed. The plan proposes to install a fence on the north boundary of the park, not the entire park, and add signage that delineates and better defines the boundary of park.

Lojko inquired if there will be any buffering.

McCray replied stating that there will be additional landscaping but not to the extent that it would be a burden to maintain or create visibility hazards. Water Resources has offered to conduct stream enhancements, realignment of the creek to eliminate water flowing through existing walkways and may be able to provide assistance with the bridges. Communications have taken place on how to connect this park to the Downtown Greenway. One recommendation is to install sidewalks from Haywood to Whittington which would then connect to the Southeast Connector to the Greenway.

The second community meeting for this park was held last week to provide an additional opportunity for neighborhood residents to give feedback on the proposed design. The plan received no objections or feedback that required any changes to the concept design, but several questions were asked as to the timing and budget of the project. Staff will continue to follow-up and work with the neighborhood with implementing the plan, including developing priorities and strategies, as well as making modifications to the plan should the neighborhood vision or site conditions change.

Kinds inquired if there will be lighting and will the exercise stations be the same as those showing on the master plan design.

McCray answered that there will not be lighting inside the park so as to not to encourage patrons to visit the park after dark when the park is closed. Staff will contact Duke Energy to inquire about improving the lighting along the perimeter of the park. One recommendation was to install low level lighting along the walking trails; however the Police Department was apprehensive about doing so. The specific type of exercise stations to be installed has not yet been determined.

Brower stated that the multi-purpose court mentioned earlier was previously a basketball court and could perhaps be used as a half court for basketball, roller skating, etc. Brower suggested considering the height of the fence that is to be installed around the basketball court and the possibility of injuries.

Tsujii asked if there has been input from the community about what they would like the multi-purpose court to become.

McCray stated that staff will continue to work with the community to determine the preferred use of that area.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brower and seconded by Tsujii to approve the Steelman Park Master Plan as presented. A vote in favor was unanimous.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Wilson reported that the Senior Games opening ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 12. The first annual Bark in the Boro will be held at Center City Park on April 27. The Parks and Recreation Department held its first departmental staff meeting under the new leadership. The turnout was exciting and staff was enthusiastic. Staff is taking a new approach to recreation as to what the community truly wants and not what staff feels what their recreation should be. City Council has expressed an interest in transferring Grimsley Pool to Guilford County Schools.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Hassard welcomed Tsujii.

Kinds stated that she enjoys meeting at various locations and the scope of planning in this department is huge.

Cheek welcomed Tsujii and thanked GUSA for attending and for their partnership.

Tsujii commended staff on their efforts. He commented that he has always had a positive interaction with staff.

Brower reminded Members that during this budget season the support from the Commission is needed.

Lojko stated that Parks and Recreation helps put the Green in Greensboro.

With no further business, Lojko adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation

Jefferson Pilot Life Insurance Company
Dedicated Drainage and Open Space
Deed Offered for Acceptance
8.2 +/- acres



Aerial Map - Proposed D&OS



